

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WINNIP 00245 212023Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11

SCEM-02 INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /117 W

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P 211916Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 962

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS WINNIPEG 245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: PIPELINE DEBATE - CANADIAN CRITICISM

IN JULY 20 LEAD EDITORIAL WINNIPEG TRIBUNE STRONGLY CRITICIZED CANADA AND PARTICULARLY MITCHELL SHARP FOR ACTIONS IN MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE DEBATE. EDITORIAL IN PART STATES:

1) REPORTS FROM OTTAWA INDICATE CANADIAN CONCHALANCE MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE US SENATE S APPROVAL OF TRANS-ALASKA PIPE-LINE SYSTEM UNQUOTE. NOTING CHAIN OF EVENTS WHICH CALLED FIRST FOR 51 PER CENT OWNERSHIP ANDSUBSEQUENT CHANGED VERSION IN

MAJORITY CONTROL REQUIREMENT THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES:

QUOTE IN ANY EVENT, THE CHANGED VERSION OF THE ANSWER WAS MADE PUBLIC TO THE PRESS WITH NO INDICATION THAT THERE HAD BEEN A CHANGE. THE FIRST VERSION WAS NOT MENTIONED. MOREOVER, THE FIRST INDICATION THAT US AUTHORITIES HAD OF THE REVISED ANSWER WAS THROUGH A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE CANADIN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO THE US STATE DEPARTMENT. THE CANADIANS WERE THEN TOLD, QUITE RIGHTLY, TO PUT THE CHANGE IN WRITING.

AT THIS POINT THE SNAILS TOOK OVER. THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT IN OTTAWA SENT THE NEW ANSWER TO THE US EMBASSY IN OTTAWA ON JULY 7. GOING THROUGH CHANNELS, IT TOOK TEN DAYS FOR THE CANADIAN POSITION ON OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL TO REACH THE US CONGRESS.

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BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE TO HAVE MUCH IMPACK ON THE OUTCOME

OF THE DEBATE.

IT S ALL VERY WELL FOR MITCHELL SHAGP AND OTHERS IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO TRY TO PUT THE BLAME ON THE US EMBASSY IN OTTAWA AND THE US STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE LEISURELY WAY IN WHICH THE MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO THE US CONGRESS. BUT SURELY IT WAS MR. SHARPE S JOB TO MAKE SURE THAT US SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN KNEW PRECISELY WHERE CANADA STOOD ON SUCH A KEY QUESTION AS 51 PER CENT OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE PIPELINE ACROSS CANADA. OR WAS THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT AFRAID THAT BY MAKING ITS POSITION CLEAR CANADIANS WOULD ALSO FIND OUT ABOUT HOW OTTAWA STOOD ON 51 PER CENT CONTROL? UNQUOTE

2) NO OTHER LOCAL COMMENT IN PRESS ON PIPELINE ISSUE.

3) THIS MORNINGS CBC NEWS BROADCAST REPORTED THAT OPPOSITION LEADER, STANFIELD. VISITING IN WINNIPEG STATED HE WAS APPALLED AT QUOTE NEGLIGENCE AND NONCHALANCE OF LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IN HANDLING OF PIPELINE CASE UNQUOTE.

4) FULL TEXT TRIBUNE EDITORIAL AIRMAILED TODAY.
KELLY

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